

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary _ Public

Date: 10/28/2014

GAIN Report Number: TR4039

Turkey

Post: Ankara

Turkey Requires GE-Free Attestation for Enzymes and Microorganisms

Report Categories:

Biotechnology and Other New Production
Technologies

Approved By:

Jess K. Paulson, Agricultural Attaché

Prepared By:

Nergiz Ozbag, Sr. Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

Beginning in late October 2014, Turkey's Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock requires a government attestation that imports of enzymes and microorganisms are not obtained from genetic engineering.

General Information:

Beginning in late October 2014, Turkey's Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MinFAL) began requiring a certificate from the producer's or exporter's government authority that issued a health certificate (plant health), veterinary health certificate (animal health), or certificate of free sale indicating that for:

- *the import of microorganism, a certificate issued by the authorities of the country of origin or the country of loading or an analysis report issued by an internationally accredited laboratory evidencing that the microorganism is not genetically modified; and*
- *the import of enzyme, a certificate issued by the authorities of the country of origin or the country of loading evidencing that the organism, from which the enzyme is obtained, is not genetically modified.*

Government authorities may issue a separate certificate to meet this requirement, or they may include an additional declaration in current health or free sale certificates.

Until this decision, MinFAL required a letter from the producer or exporter indicating that the microorganism or enzyme were not obtained from genetic engineering. Turkey implemented a Biosafety Law in October 2010 that applies to all products except cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. As the law does not exclude microorganisms or enzymes, MinFAL is bound to require some assurance that these products are not genetically engineered.

Microorganisms and enzymes are used extensively in many sectors, such as food, textiles, medicine, pharmaceuticals, detergents, cosmetics, etc. They are catalysts for chemical reactions that make it possible or more efficient to achieve desired characteristics. Enzymes and microorganisms occur naturally and our own bodies produce or utilize both. They are used widely in the food industry such as meat and fish, alcohol, dairy, the bakery industry, the fruit and vegetable processing industry (juices and canned products), tea processing, sweeteners, flavor and taste enhancing products, etc.

Turkey imported \$106.7 million in enzymes in 2013. The United States was the fifth largest supplier with \$4.9 million, following Denmark (\$59 million), France (\$10 million), Finland (\$8 million) and China (\$7 million).

Turkey imported \$18 million in microorganisms in 2013. The United States was the leading supplier with \$4.8 million, followed by Germany (\$3 million), France (\$3 million), and Denmark (\$1.9 million).